

Non-Hillside trails that need improvement

April 19, 2023

El Cerrito Trail Trekkers

These are the non-Hillside public paths and potential stairs that need to be improved to complete El Cerrito's remarkable network of trails. The Park and Recreation Commission has added this work to their work plan. Trekkers has also developed a plan for public outreach that was approved by the commission.

Please note also that in addition to improving the trails, the city needs to install the non-Hillside trail signs, as designed by the National Park Service, in order to have a serviceable trail network.

1. Tassajara Park Trail. From Tassajara Avenue near Alva Ave through Tassajara Park, ending by the recreational center. This would be easy to do; we have a good plan; currently it is dangerous, especially in wet weather. All-volunteer.

2. Lagunitas to Edwards Path. Two legs; one is passable if you are intrepid, the other completely blocked. Trailhead appears to belong to the driveway at 2367 Carquinez but is really a publicly owned right of way. The path emerges between 2444 and 2502 Mira Vista. Leg two right-of-way is between 2445 and 2501 Mira Vista and emerges between 2448 and 2500 Tulare. Blocked at both ends.

This would require a fair amount of work, and removal of a portion of a soft rock at the bottom of one of the trails. But it could be done by volunteers. This is a good example of a route that could provide excellent emergency egress.

3. Gatto Trail. From between 6637 and 6641 Gatto to 6462 Conlon, near 2150 Junction. Very steep trail would require treads and maybe a short concrete stairway at the bottom. Would provide excellent emergency egress.

4. Knott Trail. Two legs, the second of which is passable. *Leg one is a steep trail starting north of 6501 Hagen. Steps needed.* Leg two from between 2052 and 2056 Harper. It emerges by 2063 Tapscott St.

This is an excellent example of a needed public walkway which would make it easier and safer for people in the hills to access BART, emergency egress, shopping. The path is currently in use, which clearly shows its value, though it requires some fancy footwork to get down at the very bottom. Most of the trail could be done by volunteers but stairs may be needed at the bottom. This may be the costliest of all the trails to improve, but its utility is great.

5. Brewster Trail. From 1311 and 1319 Brewster Court downhill to 1334 Contra Costa Drive. This could be volunteer work, though it gets steep. Another excellent route for emergency egress.

6. Betty Lane Path. City right-of-way runs from between 1141 and 1145 Contra Costa Avenue, downhill to King Drive between 1140 and 1146. This could be volunteer work, though it gets steep. Another excellent route for emergency egress.

7. Dorothy Rosenberg Park Trail. Alternative entrance to Dorothy Rosenberg Memorial Park from Shevlin. The park is not yet open to the public. This trail would be easy for volunteers to build.

8. Terrace Cutoff. Trailhead is on Terrace between 8231 and 8239. It connects to the passable Stockton-King trail, forming a T. Would require dickering with a neighbor about use of the trail, as part of a neighbor's fence blocks the actual city-owned right-of-way, so use of adjacent private land would be required. Top portion is steep but volunteer-built treads would handle that. People already use this trail.

9. Shevlin to Huber Park. This park entry is on Shevlin Drive between house numbers 821 and 825. It is an easy descent into the park. For years it was blocked by illegal fencing but is no longer. Very little work would be needed here to connect this to the main trail in the park. Remove some plants blocking the trail, smooth out the earth, level a bit. We could consider using two or three treads near the bottom of the trail, but may not need to.

10. Liberty to Ohlone Path. Short dirt path to Greenway, starting across the street from 712-716 Liberty; treads would be useful. It's essentially part of centennial Park; Trekkers has the idea of putting natural history interpretive signage, as it is a lovely little spot.

11. Bay Tree Lane to Contra Costa Dr. *The right of way goes along border with Kensington, starting at the end of the driveway at 810 Contra Costa Drive. Blocked by houses. Doubtful this trail will ever be built.*